

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 NSC-05
SS-15 /056 W
-----091864 240526Z /23
R 231958Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1972

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E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NATIONAL AIRLINES - CHARLES DE GAULLE
QUESTION.

REF: PARIS 013274, PARA 7; AND PREVIOUS.

1. WE HAVE INFORMALLY RAISED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THE QUESTION OF A FRENCH RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL AIRLINES BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF ITS WISH TO MOVE FROM ORLY TO CHARLES DE GAULLE (WHICH WAS PRESENTED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATWOOD ON MARCH 24) WITH QUAI D'ORSAY AVIATION SPECIALIST CLAUDE LAFONTAINE. FINALLY, ON MAY 23 SHE TOLD CIVIL AIR ATTACHE THAT IT HAD BEEN DETERMINED BY THE FRENCH AVIATION AUTHORITIES THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS, BUT WOULD ONLY SAY THAT PHYSICAL CONSIDERATION (I.E., OVERCROWDING) AT DE GAULLE WOULD NOT PERMIT SUCH A MOVE. WHEN WE INDICATED THE SMALL NUMBER OF NATIONAL FREQUENCIES INVOLVED, SHE WOULD ONLY REPLY THAT ALMOST ALL FOREIGN AIRLINES SERVING ORLY WANTED TO MAKE SUCH A MOVE AND DEGAULLE COULD NOT ACCOMMODATE THEM ALL. HENCE NATIONAL COULD NOT BE PERMITTED EITHER.
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WHEN WE NOTED THAT AEROFLOT HAD BEEN RECENTLY PERMITTED TO CHANGE, SHE AGAIN ASSERTED THAT WAS A SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BASED ON A PACKAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. FINALLY, SHE OBSERVED THAT THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES DID NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE ANY WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE USG.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT SURPRISED BY CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE'S

RESPONSE WHICH HAS BEEN FORESHADOWED IN EARLIER CON-
VERSATIONS WITH HER AND WITH ESPEROU AT DGAC. IT IS
CERTAINLY OUR OBSERVATION THAT DEGAULLE IS QUITE CON-
GESTED IN THE MORNING AND NOON HOURS WHICH ARE THE
PEAK PERIOD FOR TRANS-ATLANTIC ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.
WHETHER AN APPLICATION BASED ON USING OFF-PEAK PERIODS
(ASSUMING NATIONAL WOULD FIND THIS CONSISTENT WITH ITS
MARKETING AND AIRCRAFT UTILIZATION REQUIREMENTS) WOULD
FARE ANY BETTER IS PROBLEMATIC. CERTAINLY, THE
FRENCH AT PRESENT HAVE LITTLE INCENTIVE FOR WISHING TO
ACCOMMODATE A U.S. CARRIER OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF A
MORE GENERAL AVIATION BARGAINING PROCESS.

3. WE HAVE CALLED ATTENTION BEFORE (PARIS 01936) TO
THE FACT THAT MORE SPACE WILL BECOME AVAILABLE AT DE
GAULLE IN 1980 OR 1981 WHEN THE SECOND TERMINAL
OPENS AND AIR FRANCE OPERATIONS ARE REMOVED FROM THE
PRESENT TERMINAL. THAT SPACE WILL NOT BE UNLIMITED AND,
WE UNDERSTAND, VARIOUS AIRLINES ARE NOW NEGOTIATING
FOR A MOVE WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. NATIONAL HAS
APPARENTLY DECLINED TO DO SO, FEELING SUCH NEGOTIATIONS
WOULD WEAKEN ITS CASE FOR MORE IMMEDIATE ACCOMMODATION.
IT MAY BE THE COURSE OF PRUDENCE FOR NATIONAL TO
ACCEPT THAT AN IMMEDIATE MOVE IS NOT LIKELY AND THERE-
FORE TO START MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR TWO OR THREE
YEARS HENCE, LEST IT BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD THEN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, AIRLINES, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS16419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780218-0426
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780529/aaaaaycm.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1d8e4698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 PARIS 13274, 78 PARAMARIBO 7
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2602853
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: NATIONAL AIRLINES - CHARLES DE GAULLE QUESTION.
TAGS: EAIR, FR, NATIONAL AIRLINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1d8e4698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014